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Introduced Version

**HOUSE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

**DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION supporting presumptively  
open hearings in juvenile and family courts.

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**Frizzell**

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\_\_\_\_\_, read first time and referred to Committee on

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20073037

2007

HC 1024/DI 84+



## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION supporting presumptively open hearings in Juvenile and Family Court..

*Whereas, The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges is an organization that identifies problems within our nation's juvenile and family courts and formulates ways of improving practice in order to enhance justice;*

*Whereas, The National Council seeks a society in which every child and every family in need of judicial oversight has access to fair, effective, and timely justice;*

*Whereas, The nation's juvenile and family courts decide cases involving children and families;*

*Whereas, These cases focus on our society's efforts to hold children accountable for their conduct, protect children from abuse and neglect, preserve families, and achieve timely permanency for children;*

*Whereas, The public has a legitimate and compelling interest in the work of our juvenile and family courts; and*

*Whereas, Open court proceedings will increase public awareness of the critical problems faced by juvenile and family courts and by child welfare agencies in matters involving child protection, may enhance accountability in the conduct of these proceedings by lifting the veil of secrecy that surrounds them, and may ultimately increase public confidence in the work of the judges of the nation's juvenile*



*and family courts: Therefore,*

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives  
of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,  
the Senate concurring:*

1       SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly supports the  
2       concept that our nation's juvenile and family courts be open to the  
3       public except when the juvenile or family court judge determines that  
4       the hearing should be closed in order to serve the best interests of a  
5       child or family members.

6       SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of  
7       Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to the Juvenile  
8       Justice Improvement Committee and the Justice Shepard, Chief Justice  
9       of the Indiana Supreme Court.

